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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8280
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUDAPEST 1187

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, NATO, HU
SUBJECT: PREPARATION FOR BELGRADE CSCE MEETINGS: HUMAN CONTACTS:
WARSAW PACT COUNTRY PAPERS

REF: STATE 033465, USNATO 0867, STATE 082504

1. IN LIEU OF PROVIDING USNATO AND DEPARTMENT EXTENSIVELY REVISED COPIES OF ISD/140 HUMAN CONTACT COUNTRY PAPER ON HUNGARY, EMBASSY SUBMITS FOLLOWING COMMENTS, CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE DOCUMENT.

2. BASICALLY, ISD/140 CASTS AN ACCURATE PICTURE OF HUNGARIAN PERFORMANCE IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN CONTACTS, AND THIS PICTURE IS RELATIVELY GOOD. HOWEVER, DIVIDED FAMILIES REMAIN A PROBLEM. WHILE EMBASSY'S LIST OF OUTSTANDING PROBLEM CASES REMAIN SMALL (SEVEN CASES INVOLVING TWELVE INDIVIDUALS IN HUNGARY), WE NOTE THAT FOR REASONS PERHAPS OF CURRENT GOH UNEASE OVER U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS AND FUTURE OF DETENTE, AND DISQUIET OVER U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS PRONOUNCEMENTS, WE HAVE HAD RECENTLY NO FAVORABLE PROBLEM-CASE RESOLUTIONS. INDICATIONS ARE THAT GOH HAS DECIDED TO CONTINUE QUIET, CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH U.S. ON RESOLUTION OF INDIVIDUAL CASES.
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SO WE HAVE HOPES THAT THE PRESENT SLOWDOWN WILL PASS.

3. EMBASSY CANNOT DRAW A DIRECT LINE BETWEEN GOH'S RELATIVELY FORTHCOMING RECORD ON DIVIDED FAMILY CASES WE HAVE PRESENTED SINCE ONSET OF THE HELSINKI ERA IN MID-1975 (50 PERCENT HAVE BEEN FAVORABLY RESOLVED BY GRANTING OF EXIT PERMISSIONS) AND GOH PERCEPTION OF

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CSCE ITSELF. OUR CURRENT BILATERAL DIVIDED FAMILY DIALOGUE AND TACTICS BEGAN ABOUT SEPTEMBER 1975, BUT HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN NOURISHED MORE BY IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS SINCE THEN AND THE GOH'S ESTIMATE OF ITS OWN SELF-INTEREST THAN BY CSCE.

4. AT A MEETING THREE WEEKS AGO IN BUDAPEST, OTHER ALLIED COUNTRIES (EXCEPT FRANCE, WHICH DID NOT ATTEND) WERE IN BASIC AGREEMENT WITH OUR VIEWS ON HUNGARIAN CSCE IMPLEMENTATION, EXCEPT THAT OTHERS COULD NOT ATTEST TO ANY PROGRESS ON FAMILY REUNIFICATION. CANADIANS SAID THEY HAD A RATHER LARGE NUMBER OF CASES WHICH, HOWEVER, THEY HAD PRESENTED TO GOH ONLY RECENTLY. OTHERS HAD 1-5 CASES EACH WITH ONLY VERY FEW IF ANY FAVORABLY RESOLVED.

5. THERE FOLLOW SPECIFIC CORRECTIONS AND COMMENTS ON THE ISD/140 HUNGARY PAPER, KEYED TO PAGE AND PARA NUMBERS:
P. 3 (V) VISIT PASSPORT FEES. SINGLE EXIT TO WEST: FT. 400 WITHOUT FOREIGN EXCHANGE PERMIT; FT. 600 WITH. ADDITIONAL SINGLE EXITS: SAME PRICES.
P. 3 B.(III) ACQUISITION OF FOREIGN CURRENCY. AS OF 1/1/77 HUNGARIANS VISITING WEST MAY PURCHASE FT. 4000 (CA. $194) OF HARD CURRENCY ONCE EVERY THREE YEARS. LAST PERVIOUS INCREASE WAS IN APRIL 1976 FROM FT. 3300 TO 3600 (CA. $158 TO $173).
P. 3 B (IV) ACCESS TO FOREIGN EMBASSIES. HUNGARIANS SEEKING U.S. VISAS HAVE UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO THE EMBASSY. HUNGARIAN DIVIDED FAMILY MEMBERS ARE ALSO FREE
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TO COME TO AND COMMUNICATE WITH US; WE HAVE LEARNED OF NO CASES OF HARASSMENT FOR DOING SO EVEN WHEN DIVIDED FAMILY APPLICANTS HAVE BEEN IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH EMBASSY OVER PERIODS OF YEARS.
P. 3 B.(VI) AVAILABILITY TO APPLICANTS OF REASONS FOR REFUSALS. PASSPORT APPLICATIONS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE DECIDED IN 30 DAYS: APPEAL OF NEGATIVE DECISIONS MAY BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 15 MORE DAYS; APPEALS ARE TO BE LIKEWISE DECIDED IN 30 DAYS. REFUSEES RECEIVE A WRITTEN "DECISION" STIPULATING PASSPORT LAW PROVISION UNDER WHICH REFUSED (EXAMPLES: "BECAUSE YOUR HUSBAND IS RESIDING ABROAD ILLEGALLY", OR "BECAUSE YOUR TRAVEL ABROAD IS NOT IN THE STATE INTEREST"). BUT SINCE HUNGARIAN LAW DOES PROVIDE FOR EXCEPTIONS TO THE NORMAL RULES IN "WELL-FOUNDED" CASES, SUCH EXPLANATIONS REALLY MEAN ONLY THAT FOR REASONS BEST KNOWN TO THEMSELVES AND WHICH ARE NOT STIPULATED, AUTHORITIES HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO MAKE AN

EXCEPTION.

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P. 3 B.(VII) DURATION OF STAY ABROAD. FOR WORKING-AGE PERSONS, GENERALLY ONE TO THREE MONTHS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH AMOUNT OF TIME ACCEDED TO BY EMPLOYER. FOR RETIREES, INDEFINITELY.

P. 4.II.A(IV) URGENT ENTRY CASES. WESTERN VISITORS TO HUNGARY CAN USUALLY OBTAIN BORDER VISAS (EXCEPT ON TRAINS) IN ONE TO FOUR HOURS. PERSONS APPLYING URGENTLY ABROAD CAN USUALLY OBTAIN VISAS WITHIN HOURS IF THEY PRESENT THEMSELVES PERSONALLY TO A VISA-ISSUING POST WITH THEIR PASSPORTS.

P. 4.II.A(VI) - NO PENALTIES.

P. 5 (II) FOREIGN CURRENCY RESTRICTIONS. TOURISTS MUST CURRENTLY EXCHANGE $7.50 PER DAY OF PLANNED STAY. TOURISTS VISITING RELATIVES FOR EXTENDED PERIODS MAY RECEIVE 30-DAY STAYING PERMITS AGAINST HARD-CURRENCY EXCHANGE FOR ONLY TEN DAYS.

P. 5 (IV) WESTERN PERFORMANCE. EMBASSY IMPLEMENTS

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U.S. VISA PROCEDURES SO THAT EXCEPT IN RELATIVELY VERY FEW CASES IN WHICH VISAS ARE DEFINITIVELY DENIED, HUNGARIAN APPLICANTS RECEIVE U.S. NONIMMIGRANT VISAS TO ACCORD WITH THEIR TRAVEL PLANS, INCLUDING IMMEDIATELY, WITH HOURS, OR OVERNIGHT AS NECESSARY.

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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUDAPEST 1187

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P. 9 (III). ROUTINE EMIGRATION PASSPORT APPLICATIONS REQUIRE 1-2 MONTHS.
P. 9 (V). EMBASSY'S OBSERVATION IS THAT PERSONS ARDENTLY DESIRING TO EMIGRATE, AND WHO ARE REFUSED, MAY REAPPLY AT LEAST TWICE AND SOMETIMES THREE OR FOUR TIMES ANNUALLY. NO INFORMATION ON FEES FOR SUCH REAPPLICATIONS.
P. 9 (VII) MEETINGS AND CONTACTS. IF SPONSOR IS "ABROAD ILLEGALLY", MEETINGS CANNOT OCCUR UNTIL HUNGARIAN EXIT PERMISSION IS GRANTED. OTHERWISE SPONSORS, E.G. USC WIVES OF HUNGARIANS BARRED FOR MILITARY REASONS FROM EMIGRATING, MAY FREELY VISIT THEIR HUSBANDS IN HUNGARY AS NORMAL TOURISTS.
P. 9 (IX). SEE P. 4 II (VI) ABOVE.
P. 10 B.(II). SEE P. 3 B.(IV) ABOVE.
P. 10. B. (VII). SEE P. 3B.(VI) ABOVE.
P. 13 I.A.(I) ENTRY PERMITS FOR BILATERAL MARRIAGES. NORMALLY GRANTED EASILY, AS REGULAR TOURISTS. PERMISSION TO MARRY IS NORMALLY DETERMINED INDEPENDENTLY OF PERMISSION TO ENTER. OBSERVATIONS INDICATES THAT HUNGARIANS SEEKING TO LEAVE TO MARRY USC'S IN U.S. RECEIVE EMIGRATION PERMISSION ON SAME BASIS AS PERSONS ALREADY MARRIED, CONFIDENTIAL

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I.E. FAIRLY LIBERALLY UNLESS THEY HAVE "RELATIVES ABROAD ILLEGALLY" OR ARE MALES UNDER MILITARY OBLIGATION.
P. 14 B.(I). SEE PREVIOUS ITEM.
P. 19 I.A. (I) PASSPORTS TO VISIT EMIGRANTS. PASSPORTS ARE AS A RULE DENIED FOR EMIGRATION OR VISITS TO PREVIOUS CLOSE-RELATIVE EMIGRANTS WHO ARE "ABROAD ILLEGALLY". HOWEVER, AUTHORITIES APPEAR GENERALLY TO IGNORE THIS RULE IF THE PERSON TO BE VISITED LEFT FIVE OR MORE YEARS AGO.
P. 21B.(I), (II), (V), (VI) - ALREADY COMMENTED UPON ABOVE.
P. 22(VII). PENSIONERS MAY EFFECTIVELY TRAVEL ONCE A YEAR, PROVIDED RELATIVES OR FRIENDS PAY COSTS.
P. 22 II. EFFECTIVE 1/1/77 VISITORS TO WEST MAY PURCHASE FT. 4000($194) OF HARD CURRENCY ONCE EVERY THREE YEARS.
APPENDIX - P. 1 - WESTERN PERFORMANCE. U.S. VISA COSTS AND ISSUANCE TIMES. ISSUANCE OF U.S. VISAS TO HUNGARIANS.
NONIMMIGRANT FAMILY/TOURISTS VISITS BUSINESS VISITS
FEES: $6 PER PERSON SINGLE ENTRY SAME
$9 PERPERSON DOUBLE ENTRY
TIMES: SIMPLE TOURIST 1-3 HOURS 2-4 DAYS ROUTINELY
COMMUNIST CASES 2-3 WEEKS WHEN FASTER IF NECESSARY
SPECIAL-ENTRY PERMISSION IS

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OBTAINED BY MAIL.
3-4 DAYS WHEN PERMISSION OBTAINED
BY TELEGRAM/TELEPHONE.
IMMEDIATELY OR OVERNIGHT IN URGENT
CASES WHEN PERMISSION OBTAINED BY
TELEPHONE.
IMMIGRANT VISAS/FAMILY REUNIFICATIONS
FEES: APPLICATION $5 PLUS ISSUANCE $20
TIME: 2-3 MONTHS, INCLUDING TIME REQUIRED BY APPLICANTS
TO OBTAIN REQUISITE HUNGARIAN EMIGRATION PASSPORTS.
STRICT U.S. VISA PROCESSING IN FAMILY REUNIFICATION
CASES CAN BE DONE IN TWO WEEKS OR LESS MEASURED
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FROM TIME VISA PEITION IS FILED AT EMBASSY BUDAPEST,
OR APPROVED PETITION IS RECEIVED FROM U. S.
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